

EMC Final Minutes
Jan. 12, 4:00 p.m.
TCAT

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Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
George Adams	P	Town of Danby	Regi Teasley	P	At-Large
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Jeff Walker	A	Village of Cayuga Heights
Marley Bonacquist-Currin	P	At-Large	Brad Will	P	At-Large
Tom Corey	P	Village of Dryden	David Wolfe	P	Town of Lansing
Cait Darfler	P	Village of Trumansburg	Anne Koreman	P	Legislative Liaison
Marc Devokaitis	P	Town of Ulysses	Lindsay Dombroskie	E	Associate Member
Pegi Ficken	P	Town of Groton	Karen Edelstein	A	Associate Member
Joey Gates	P	At-Large	Jason Fenn	A	Associate Member
Melanie Greaver Cordova	P	At-Large	Vanessa Greenlee	A	Associate Member
Brandon Hoak	P	At-Large	Thomas Hirasuna	P	Associate Member
Rick Neville	P	Village of Groton	Maria Van Dyke	A	Associate Member
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline	David Weinstein	P	Associate Member
Stephanie Redmond	P	Town of Enfield	Robert Wesley	A	Associate Member
Susan Riley	P	At-Large	Darby Kiley	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Larry Sallinger	P	At-Large	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Ron Szymanski	P	Village of Freeville			

5 **Guests:** Christine Collins, Jonathan Comstock, Scott Doyle, Barbara Eden, Brian Eden, Chuck Geisler, Sara
6 Hess, Anna Kelles, Mary Alyce Kobler, Lou Vogel, Irene Weiser, Ingrid Zabel

7 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called meeting to order at 4:02pm.

8 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No changes to agenda. No public comment.

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10 **Approval of Minutes** – The draft December 2022 minutes were approved (motion by Regi Teasley,
11 second by Susan Riley) with one edit: “Town of Groton” was changed to “Village of Groton.” (line 45)

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13 **Member Introductions** – Members and guests engaged in a round robin of introductions.

14

15 **Action: Election of 2023 Vice Chairs** – *Nominating Committee*

16 Marc Devokaitis, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2023 vice chair slate (Steve
17 Nicholson, Susan Riley, Regi Teasley). Nominations were solicited from the floor, but none were offered.
18 Everyone thanked Regi Teasley for her leadership as 2022 chair.

19 **Action:** Marc Devokaitis made a motion, which David Wolfe seconded, to elect Steve Nicholson, Susan
20 Riley, and Regi Teasley the 2023 vice chairs of the Tompkins County Environmental Management
21 Council. Motion carried.

22

23 **Organizing for 2023: Board Logistics, Work Plan Ideas, and Member Expectations** – Cait Darfler
24 Cait provided an overview of the EMC meeting schedule, typical meeting content, member
25 responsibilities, committee structure, role of municipal representatives, as well as resolutions, letters of
26 support, and other actions taken by the EMC. She shared that plans are in the works for Tompkins EMC
27 to host the annual NYS Association of Conservation Commissions conference next fall. Other initiatives
28 she and vice chairs have in mind for 2023 include updating the EMC bylaws, improving collaboration
29 with municipalities, having EMC municipal representatives take turns giving municipal updates each
30 month, working on diversity and inclusion and community outreach, growing subscriber base for
31 Tompkins Green Scene e-newsletter, and more. Chairs of the currently established committees
32 (Education & Outreach, Unique Natural Areas, and Climate Adaptation) reported on accomplishments
33 from 2022 and plans for 2023. Members interested in joining or renewing their spot on one of those
34 committees should connect with the respective chair. The Green Scene subcommittee – which
35 developed out of the Education & Outreach Committee – seeks volunteers to help produce the EMC’s
36 biweekly e-newsletter. Members interested in starting a new committee should reach out to the
37 broader group, keeping in mind that two voting members are required to establish one.

38 Anne Koreman shared that the County Legislature is finalizing its committee assignments and schedule
39 for 2023. EMC members are welcome and encouraged to give periodic updates at legislative meetings.

40 **Municipal Reports** – The Arbor Committee has been busy in the Village of Freeville, with tree planting
41 going well. Village of Groton is working on update to its comprehensive plan. Town of Danby
42 Conservation Advisory Council is seeking a new chair and produced a report offering guidelines on
43 placement of solar panel arrays in wetlands. Town of Ulysses is also updating its comprehensive plan
44 and involving agricultural community in the process. Other news from Ulysses includes its designation as
45 a Bee Friendly Community. Town of Enfield report included updates on drinking water protection plan
46 and town’s collaboration with NYS Rural Water Association. Town of Lansing Conservation Advisory
47 Council continues working on Open Space Index and public engagement.

48
49 **Staff Report** – Department is finalizing the 2023 Work Program. County is recruiting for a chief
50 transportation officer.

51 **Member Announcements** – Joey Gates updated group on the Zero Waste Festivals initiative. Members
52 talked about outreach ideas for Earth Day.

53 **Action: Resolution in Appreciation of Brian Eden**

54 Cait read aloud the resolution in support of Brian Eden’s contributions to the EMC, County government,
55 and greater community as a passionate advocate for the environment over many years. The resolution
56 appears in its entirety below:

57 **Resolution in Appreciation of Brian Eden**
58 *for his years of service to the EMC and Tompkins County*
59

60 **WHEREAS** Brian Eden served on and led numerous boards for Tompkins County including:

- 61 • the EMC from 2010-2019 and as Council Chair from 2017-2019.
- 62 • the Hillview Road Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee (closed County landfill) Member and
63 Chair since 2002.
- 64 • the Tompkins County Energy Road Map Steering Committee from 2014-2016.
- 65 • the Tompkins County Energy Task Force from 2017-2019.

- 66 • the Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board (Case) from 2020- present,
67 and
68

69 **WHEREAS**, as chair and member of the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council, and as chair and
70 member of the EMC’s Environmental Review Committee, Brian played a pivotal role in making Tompkins County a
71 sustainability and renewable energy leader. During Brian’s tenure as chair, the EMC passed resolutions
72 supporting revisions of the County’s Unique Natural Areas, supporting a ban on single-use plastic bags, and
73 recommending that the Legislature urge the NYSDEC to require Cargill to prepare an Environmental Impact
74 Statement for their proposed mine shaft, and
75

76 **WHEREAS**, as a member of the Hillview Road Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee, Brian played a critical
77 advisory role to the Tompkins County Legislature in the oversight and closure of this former landfill. His
78 efforts included advocating and negotiating for monitoring, on-site inspection, maintenance,
79 monitoring, and treatment of the leachate collection system and landfill caps, and
80

81 **WHEREAS**, as a member of the Tompkins County Energy Road Map Steering Committee, Brian helped to
82 shape the guiding vision for the Tompkins County Energy Roadmap, which evaluates local energy
83 resources and develops scenarios to meet the county’s 80% greenhouse gas emission reduction goal and
84 projected energy needs through 2050, and
85

86 **WHEREAS**, during his tenure, the Tompkins County Energy Task Force provided input and guidance to
87 the County Department of Planning and Sustainability and to the Legislature on the topics of energy,
88 climate change, and energy-related economic development. This board transitioned to become the
89 Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy Advisory Board, and
90

91 **WHEREAS** Brian continues to share his valuable time, energy, expertise on the Case Board, and provides
92 the Tompkins County Legislature expertly curated information on legislative and regulatory initiatives,
93 and successful community programs relating to energy and climate change, as well as emerging energy
94 efficiency, renewables, and climate adaptation technologies, now, therefore, be it
95

96 **RESOLVED**, That the Tompkins County Environment Management Council hereby thanks Brian Eden for
97 his dedication, expertise, leadership, and an unheard-of number of selfless hours dedicated to
98 sustainability and renewable energy programs in Tompkins County and tremendous contributions to
99 protecting and preserving New York’s environment. Brian works endlessly for a better environmental
100 future. His grandchildren and all future generations will benefit from Brian’s service. We are honored to
101 have known and worked with him.
102

103 **Action:** Regi Teasley moved, with a second by Susan Riley, to approve the Resolution in Appreciation of
104 Brian Eden. Motion carried.

105 Brian thanked everyone assembled for their kind remarks and support. He expressed his appreciation
106 for the important work of the EMC and the colleagues he’s collaborated with on that board and others
107 over the years. Anne Koreman plans to present a resolution in honor of Brian at an upcoming meeting of
108 the County Legislature. [Meeting postscript: A bit later in the evening, NYS Assemblyperson Anna Kelles
109 arrived and presented a resolution honoring Brian’s commitment to the environment.]

110 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:26pm.